independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

(c) and (d) As on 01.01.2007, OMCs were operating 165 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttarakhand. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 14.34 lakh LPG customers covering 89.51% population in the State of Uttarakhand. In addition to this, 5 more LPG distributorships are at various stages of commissioning.

The supply of LPG was hindered in Uttarakhand during the month of July, 2006 due to some restrictions imposed by District Administration on transportation of heavy vehicles on account of "Kanwaria" movement. However, at present, there is no shortage of LPG in the State of Uttarakhand including hilly areas and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by OMCs in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Price of crude Oil

†219. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum price of crude oil was 51.05 dollar per barrel under Indian Basket in the International market during January, 2007;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced by rupees two and one respectively in the last year during November, 2006 in the country; and

(d) if so, the average price of crude oil under Indian Basket prevailed in November, October, 2006 in the international market?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The lowest price of Indian Basket of Crude Oil was $49.85 per barrel on 17th January 2007 (April 2006-till 23.2.2007).

(c) Yes, Sir. The prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on 30.11.2006. It was again reduced on 16.2.2007. The reduction was Rs. 2/- per litre and Re. 1/- per litre (in Delhi) on petrol and diesel respectively on each occasion.

(d) The average price of Indian Basket of Crude Oil in November, October, 2006 was US $57.80 and 57.27 per barrel respectively.

Oil and Gas reserves

†220. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work for exploration of reserves of crude oil and gas is being carried out speedily in India;

(b) if so, the name of the organization/company which has been assigned this work mainly;

(c) the total number of places estimated to have the reserves of gas and crude oil upto December, 2006; and

(d) the estimated total quantum of crude oil and gas in these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India has 26 sedimentary basins covering an area of 3.14 million square kilometre. Presently, 1.09 million square kilometre area is under exploration. In addition, with the award of 52 exploration blocks under 6th round of New Exploration Licensing Policy, the area under exploration will increase to 1.44 million square kilometre, which is about 45 per cent of Indian sedimentary basinal area.

(b) List of Companies carrying out exploration & production of hydrocarbons in the country is given in Statement. (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.